



LBLBC NEWS

Volume 1

February 2021

LBLBC 90th Anniversary

The Harl S. Kettle family made Laguna Beach their permanent home in early 1931. Harl brought with him hopes of building a bowling green not only for the enjoyment of residents, but to induce Canadians to visit Laguna Beach for the winters.

His efforts came to fruition on May 1, 1932 when the club was officially dedicated, along with Heisler Park, with a 2-day tournament. From then on, Laguna was a very popular club, even with Canadians, hosting numerous tournaments through the years.

A decision has not yet been made as to how to celebrate our Anniversary due to Covid concerns. The Board will be monitoring recommendations to determine if a celebration can be planned.

Visit our website if you would like to learn more about the history of the Club.

Clubhouse Updates

The Board has heard the feedback from some of our members that the clubhouse is in need of a few updates. A team is in the process of compiling a list of needed improvements. First on the list is replacing the chairs and the ceiling fan in the clubhouse.

If you have suggestions for any further updates that are needed you can notify Val Blackholly or Sandy Graham.



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Tournaments

We are excited to announce that the 2021 LBLBC tournament season will start **March 13, 2021!**

The first tournament will be a double-elimination, Vet/Novice pairs event made up of 16 teams (16 Vets paired with 16 Novices), the teams will be selected in a blind draw and will play weekly for a total of seven (7) weeks. The first games will be held in two flights, eight teams will start play in the morning and play one 14 ends game, the remaining eight teams will play in the afternoon. Each game will be played to 14 ends. After the first game is played, teams will play during the week on an agreed to schedule.

Official conditions of play will be released on the website with sign up information.

Cost: \$20 per player.

Game 1: 3/13 (start at 9 AM, second game will start at 12:30 PM)

Game 2: 3/14 - 3/19

Game 3: 3/20 - 3/26

Game 4: 3/27 - 4/2

Game 5: 4/3 - 4/9

Game 6: 4/10 - 4/16

Game 7: 4/17 Finals



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Welcome New Members

LBLBC continues to be the largest club in California, as it was in 1931. We start each year with about 250 members renewing their membership and by the end of the year we are usually at just over 300 members.

Welcome to all our new members that joined in Jan and Feb. Be sure to say hello and make all the Novices welcome. They could be your next winning partner and the Vet/Novice tournament!

Juan	Bianchi
Steven	Clark
Jesse	Cox
Kevin	Cullen
Marty	Ellingsworth
Gigi	Gartner
Alex	Hamerman
Piper	Lewis
Ross	Lewis
Kimberly	OBrien-Young
Georgette	Taylor
Jason	Taylor
Ron	Kotick
Paul	Miller
Michelle	Veyna
Karl	Wolonsky



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Outdoor Benches

As you may have noticed, the five benches in front of the clubhouse are deteriorating and need to be replaced. The Board considered many options and chose an artistic, powder-coated stainless-steel bench that is on display near the patio. The new bench was designed and manufactured by Craig French, an artist who was born and raised in Laguna Beach. His work is exhibited throughout the world in private collections and on public display. The first bench replacement has been donated by Michael Iannotti, thank you Michael for your generosity! The benches are a fund raiser for the club, with proceeds after the cost going directly to the club.

We have already received a donation that will cover the cost of a second bench from Pat Gallis. Thank you Pat! Donations can be from one individual or a group, up to four people, a plaque on the bench will identify the contributor(s). You will also have the option of choosing the color scheme on the back portion of the bench, the color can be similar to your personal bowls. If you are interested in contributing to the purchase of a bench, contact Greg Mech or Michael Iannotti.



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From the Greens Committee

Concerns on the progress of the renovation of our greens are shared by both the Board and the Greens Committee. At the beginning of 2020, all club members looked forward eagerly to new healthy greens and watched with great anticipation the leveling of the South green, the laying of the recommended Paspalum sod, and the steady mowing to bring the grass down to a level of speed.

Sadly, the South green has proven to be a big disappointment. The recommendation to replace the Bermuda grass with Paspalum by Paul Cushing (Agronomic Consultant) and John Marman (V.P. of Sales & Marketing, West Coast Turf) appears to be an error. This grass has proven to be more difficult than we imagined and not the world-class grass as promised. The speed is probably at best no more than 10 - 11 sec. Nowhere near the required Bowls USA standard of a minimum of 12 secs let alone 14 - 15 secs.

Based on the advice of the agronomy consultant, we are going to give the Paspalum until the end of March to grow in, after the late aeration, to prove itself so we are absolutely sure that it is not the right grass. We are not optimistic that this grass will be what we wanted so in the meantime we are making tentative plans to replace it, as we have to deal with significant lead times to get the removal and replacement scheduled to do the work at the beginning of the growing season for Bermuda grass. We are not prepared to accept a lower standard than we set out to achieve and if we need to replace this grass to give us the playing surface we need, we will do so.

We have already created a level surface and no longer have the drop-off at the ends, so the work involved in replacement will be much less than we did last May. We have someone interested in taking up the Paspalum and removing it at no cost to us, so our cost will just involve a fine laser grading



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and the laying of the new sod. We will not disturb the new backboards and plinth board which were replaced in May.

The North green renovation, which tentatively was scheduled to be renovated early in 2021 is currently on hold, however, if the south green replacement is successful, we hope to do the north green also this year.

Paul Cushing terminated his agreement with LBLBC leaving us to find another consultant to help with our greens. We have had discussions with a new consultant, who has 28 years of experience covering the western US and Mexico and who is very familiar with Southern California turf conditions and the wide variety of grasses grown in our region. He will be advising us on the plan going forward. From an initial meeting and follow-up correspondence, he is proving to be a great recommendation and resource.

In the meantime, play will be directed for both greens. Gil, our greenskeeper will continue to attend to the greens three times a week as scheduled.

As plans develop and a timeline is determined, we will keep you updated. We appreciate your patience as we head towards great greens.